AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A node ~~(26$_1$ or 26$_2$)~~ of a radio access network of a telecommunications system which prepares a message for transmission to at least one other node of the radio access network, the message resulting from occurrence of a reset procedure ~~(104)~~ affecting a control node which controls connections with user equipment units (30) in a connected mode, the message including an element which collectively indicates that a subset of the connections are to be released so that the user equipment units ~~(30)~~ involved in the subset of the connections can return to an idle mode, the element being recognizable when included in a further message received over an air interface by a user equipment unit having a connection in the subset whereby the user equipment unit can determine if it is to return to the idle mode.

2. (currently amended) The node of claim 1, wherein the node which prepares the message is a radio network control node ~~(26$_1$)~~ which controls the connections.

3. (currently amended) The node of claim 1, wherein the node performs plural processes with each of the plural processes handling a respective one of plural subsets of connections with user equipment units ~~(30)~~ in the connected mode, and wherein when the reset procedure ~~(104)~~ affects a specific one of the plural processes, an element corresponding to the respective one of the plural subsets of connections handled by the specific one of the plural processes is included in the message.

4. (original) The node of claim 1, wherein the element comprises a group identity for the subset of connections; wherein the group identity comprises a group value and a group bit

mask index, wherein the group bit mask index indicates bits of the group value which are common for all connections of the subset of connections; and wherein the group value is a group S-RNTI and the group bit mask index indicates the bits of the group S-RNTI which are common for all connections of the subset of connections.

5. (currently amended) The node of claim 1, wherein the further message is prepared by a drift radio network control node ~~(26$_2$)~~ which provides radio resources for the connections handled by a serving radio network control node ~~(26$_1$)~~.

6. (original) The node of claim 5, wherein the element comprises a group identity for the subset of connections; wherein the group identity comprises a group value, and a group bit mask index, wherein the group bit mask index indicates bits of the group value which are common for all connections of the subset of connections; and wherein the group value is a group U-RNTI and the group bit mask index indicates the bits of the U-RNTI value which are common for all connections of the subset of connections.

7. (currently amended) A radio access network of a telecommunications system comprising:

a serving control node ~~(26$_1$)~~ which controls connections with user equipment units ~~(30)~~ in a connected mode;

at least one drift control node ~~(26$_2$)~~ which provides radio resources in cells controlled by the at least one drift control node ~~(26$_2$)~~ for some of the connections handled by the serving control node ~~(26$_1$)~~;

wherein the serving control node ~~(26$_1$)~~ sends a message for transmission to the at least one drift control node ~~(26$_2$)~~ of the radio access network, the message resulting from occurrence of a reset procedure ~~(104)~~ affecting the serving control node ~~(26$_1$)~~, the message including an element which collectively indicates that a subset of the connections are to be released so that the user equipment units ~~(30)~~ involved in the subset

of the connections can return to an idle mode, the element being recognizable when included in a further message received over an air interface by a user equipment unit having a connection in the subset whereby the user equipment unit can determine if it is to return to the idle mode.

8. (currently amended) The network of claim 7, wherein the at least one drift control node ~~(26$_2$)~~ is arranged, upon receipt of the message, to send a response message to the serving control node ~~(26$_1$)~~.

9. (currently amended) The network of claim 7, wherein the at least one drift control node ~~(26$_2$)~~ sends the further message via a base station ~~(28)~~ controlled by the at least one drift control node ~~(26$_2$)~~, the further message including a further element, the further element being derived from the element included in the message.

10. (original) The network of claim 9, wherein the further element comprises a group identity for the subset of connections; wherein the group identity comprises a control node identifier indicative of the serving control node, a group value, a group bit mask index, and wherein the group bit mask index indicates bits of the group value which are common for all connections of the subset of connections; and wherein the group value is a group U-RNTI and the group bit mask index indicates the bits of the U-RNTI value which are common for all connections of the subset of connections.

11. (currently amended) A method of operating a node ~~(26$_1$ or 26$_2$)~~ of a radio access network of a telecommunications system which prepares a message for transmission to at least one other node of the radio access network, the message resulting from occurrence of a reset procedure ~~(104)~~ affecting a control node which controls connections with user equipment units ~~(30)~~ in a connected mode, the method comprising including in the message an element which collectively indicates that a subset of the connections are to be

released so that the user equipment units ~~(30)~~ involved in the subset of the connections can return to an idle mode, the element being recognizable when included in a further message received over an air interface by a user equipment unit having a connection in the subset whereby the user equipment unit can determine if it is to return to the idle mode.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising using a radio network control method ~~(26_1)~~ which controls the connections to prepare the message.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising:

performing at the node plural processes with each of the plural processes handling a respective one of plural subsets of connections with user equipment units ~~(30)~~ in the connected mode;

when the reset procedure ~~(104)~~ affects a specific one of the plural processes, including in the message an element corresponding to the respective one of the plural subsets of connections handled by the specific one of the plural processes.

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising using a drift radio network control node ~~(26_2)~~ which provides radio resources for the connections handled by a serving radio network control node ~~(26_1)~~ to prepare the further message.

15. (currently amended) A method of operating a radio access network of a telecommunications system which includes a serving control node ~~(26_1)~~ and at least one drift control node ~~(26_2)~~, the serving control node ~~(26_1)~~ handling connections with user equipment units ~~(30)~~ in a connected mode, the at least one drift control node ~~(26_2)~~ providing radio resources in cells controlled by the at least one drift control node ~~(26_2)~~ for some of the connections handled by the serving control node ~~(26_1)~~, the method comprising:

performing a reset procedure ~~(104)~~ at the serving control node;

sending from the serving control node ~~(26_1)~~ to the at least one drift control node ~~(26_2)~~ a message resulting from performance of the reset procedure ~~(104)~~, the message including an element which collectively indicates that a subset of the connections are to be released the element being recognizable when included in a further message received over an air interface by a user equipment unit having a connection in the subset whereby the user equipment unit can determine if it is to return to the idle mode; and

using the further message so that the user equipment units ~~(30)~~ involved in the subset of the connections can return to an idle mode.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

performing at the serving control node ~~(26_1)~~ plural processes with each of the plural processes handling a respective one of plural subsets of connections with user equipment units ~~(30)~~ in the connected mode;

when the reset procedure ~~(104)~~ affects a specific one of the plural processes, including in the message an element corresponding to the respective one of the plural subsets of connections handled by the specific one of the plural processes.

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising sending, from the at least one drift control node ~~(26_2)~~, a response message to the serving control node ~~(26_1)~~.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising :

sending from the at least one drift control node ~~(26_2)~~ the further message to the user equipment unit via a base station ~~(28)~~ controlled by the at least one drift control node ~~(26_2)~~;

including in the further message a further element, the further element being derived from the element included in the message.

19. (currently amended) A message transmitted from a node ~~(26_1 or 26_2)~~ of a radio access network of a telecommunications system to at least one other node of the radio access network, the message resulting from occurrence of a reset procedure ~~(104)~~ affecting a control node which controls connections with user equipment units ~~(30)~~ in a connected mode, the message including an element which collectively indicates that a subset of the connections are to be released so that the user equipment units ~~(30)~~ involved in the subset of the connections can return to an idle mode, the element being recognizable when included in a further message received over an air interface by a user equipment unit having a connection in the subset whereby the user equipment unit can determine if it is to return to the idle mode.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. The node of claim 1, wherein the reset procedure occurs as a result of a failure of the node or of a core network node.

25. The radio access network of claim 7, wherein the reset procedure occurs as a result of a failure of the serving control node or of a core network node.

26. The method of claim 11, wherein the reset procedure occurs as a result of a failure of the node or of a core network node.

27. The node of claim 15, wherein the reset procedure occurs as a result of a failure of the node or of a core network node.